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# Can Fruit Growing Be Made a Success in West Texas and on the Plains?

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After twenty-nine years of experience I must admit that many orchards have been a failure, but I still believe that with experience and perseverance they can and will be made a success, especially with the fact that we are learning the varieties that do best, and among most of these are the varieties that originate in this country and in the coldest states. However, there are difficulties to be overcome and they are mainly these: late frost, dry weather, hard winds, hot sunshine and hail. We will consider the late frost first. I will say the most practical way are adapted to this country—by this I mean varieties that bloom late. There are some varieties that bloom about the last of April and there are other varieties that bloom moderately late, but that are so prolific that even though 90 percent of the fruit buds are killed, there is enough left for a good crop of fruit. Then there are varieties that are so hardy that it takes hard freezing weather to kill them. There are still other methods for protecting fruit from the frost but we people who have tried them do not find they are very practical. One is to use the smudge pots and smudge them at the time they need protection. This usually has to be done during or just after a cold spell and often in the night when it is very disagreeable to get out and do it. It is sometimes done when unnecessary and not done when it is needed. There is still another way and that is overhead irrigation—this in time may become a success—but my experience is the simplest way is to plant the hardy trees that will take care of themselves.

The problem of dry weather—is not so much the problem of getting the moisture as it is retaining the moisture after we get it. To my opinion the best way to do this is by thorough cultivation—and I mean by this to cultivate both ways so as to have a soil mulch three or four inches deep and do this as often as it is needed during the growing season—after every rain or about every two weeks and this will hold the moisture. I explain this by saying if a woman makes up bread dough enough and wants to keep a portion over until another date she will cover it with flour, this way it will stay fresh and moist for several hours, but if she were to put this piece of dough out in the sun and wind it would soon begin to dry out, crack and become dry. The same principle works in the cultivation of land, as the fine mulch on top stops exaporation.

There is still another method that can be used on small areas and this is mulching with a coarse straw and stalks—this will stop exaporation and fertilize the land at the same time. Moisture can be supplied by irrigation—there is a great deal to be learned about the handling of water, especially in irrigating orchards or vegetables, and I believe many times that there is more harm done than good. For instance, if you have a plot of ground though it may be in perfect condition and flooded with water and not followed up with a good cultivation it will dry out, crack and bake and in a few days will be in a worse condition than if it hadn't been irrigated. My experience in irrigating as the better way is to irrigate thru deep ditches, giving the sub soil a thorough soaking but not wetting the top any more than can be helped and just as soon as the top is sufficiently dry give it a good cultivation. This way an irrigation is equal to a good rain. We can take care of an orchard with just as little rain or moisture as any other crop.

Now I want to consider what I feel have been and will be some of the hardest difficulties to overcome, these hard, dry winds, hot sunshine and hail. To impress on your minds what I want you to get is that high pruning has been to the greatest detriment to the fruit interest—for the hot sun and the dry hot weather blisters the bark on the southwest side of the trees, which kills the sap on that side of the tree, and as the sap is the life of the tree, the tree can never be fruitful. This does not apply to shade trees, as they have thick bark that the sun doesn't blister. When the sun has killed the southwest side of a fruit tree this cuts off the circulation of the sap just as far as the sun reaches around the tree. The sap is the life of the tree and the tree becomes partly killed. After the bark is affected the borers get in and the results are that your tree is never very fruitful any more.

High pruning has never been good in any country except to get the tree in shape to plow close to. Far less in a high altitude like this where the trees need their natural protection from the excessive dry winds and hot sunshine that we have. There is a general opinion that seedling trees do better than budded or grafted trees. There is no cause for this except that seedling trees are left to grow their own way—they branch low and nature takes care of them. Whenever you interfere with nature you are doing wrong. We should shape up our

tree to suit the climate. A man contemplating planting an orchard should have in his mind just how he wants to cut his trees to shape it up so as to keep it balanced against our hard southwest winds and hot sunshine. The sun should never shine on the body of the tree. The shade should be over soil that cover the roots. In this way a tree stays moist and cool during hot dry weather more so than a highly pruned tree compared to a man sitting in the cool shade with a man sitting out in the hot sun and dry winds.

In order to accomplish this, the man that contemplates planting a tree should have it in his mind how to cut the tree the same as a carpenter has his plans laid to build a certain house. When you plant a tree you want to prune the north and east side something like one-third higher than the south and west. Have your lowest limbs not more than 12 inches high on the south and west and alternate them around the body of the tree. Cut them so that the growth will be inclined toward the south and west. If you cut a limb or a bud where you don't want it, shave them off as close as possible, so they won't start out again. The way to do this is fully explained in instructions for West Texas and New Mexico.

One advantage that a low headed tree has over the high pruned tree in this country is that it will have more fruit on it from a foot above the ground to where the high pruned tree commences than the high pruned tree will have all told. In high pruning you prune the best part of bearing timber off. It is difficult for the fruit to be kept on the high pruned tree during our high winds for it does not have proper protection from the winds. Another advantage the low branch tree has is in time of hail. Hail will hit the body of the tree and cause it to become diseased and if badly bruised will never be a fruitful tree any more. On the other hand, the low branch tree the hail will hit the branches before it gets to the body of the tree. The body will not likely be hit at all. If the limbs are broken or bruised you can cut them back and the tree will soon grow back and the tree will soon grow another top and be as good as ever.

There is a general opinion that an orchard will not last long on the Plains. I am doubtful, in fact I feel sure that there has never been a tree died on the Plains, of old age—they generally die from neglect, or in other words, from the want of plant food or disease. The larger the tree the more

moisture and plant food they need, and when an orchard becomes old and large the best thing to be done is what I call dehorning them, that is, to cut a large portion of the top off, to put them back where they will be of such size that they will have sufficient plant food and moisture to keep them in good condition. In some instances it might be the best to thin them out, fertilize and cultivate them. Many people want to know the best time to plant nursery stock. I would say it is best to take them up in the fall and all such stock as grapes, berries, roses and many other shrubs will do better to plant them in the fall. After they are planted cut the tops off within three or four inches of the ground and cover the tops with moist dirt up to where they have been cut. This will keep them moist and fresh and they will grow out good in the spring and toughen up to our dry winds.

But trees that have so much top to be exposed to the dry winds during the dormant season. I think it best to heel them out through the winter and plant about George Washington's birthday. A good way to heel them out is to cut a ditch east and west making the north side straight down about 18 inches deep. Make the south side of the ditch slanting towards the south. When you get your trees unpack them and cut the ends of the roots off where the roots are firm and sound, making the cut slant so it will slant with the soil when placed next to it. Place them in the ditch just as close as you can get the first around in among the roots. Cover the roots with loose dirt, cover that with water. When the water has soaked in, mound up with loose dirt, covering the tops three-fourth up. This way they will be fresh and moist to plant in February.

Some may want to know the best location for an orchard. My opinion is that "a high level place" is the best. On lands that are very rolling soil is generally too thin with a lime sub-soil that is not best for trees. The rain runs off the sloping soil instead of soaking in to the soil.

I will be pleased to know if this experience of mine will be of any help to anyone contemplating planting trees. We have catalogues and planting instructions for your help and please remember this: when you plant trees you are not only adding to your own premises, but you are adding to the welfare and pleasures of the country at large. If you think you can't, you can't; if you think you can, you can.

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN'T, YOU CAN'T; IF YOU THINK YOU CAN, YOU CAN



Residence from Delivery \_\_\_\_\_ Miles \_\_\_\_\_  
You may deliver to me or us, at \_\_\_\_\_

THE NURSERY STOCK NAMED BELOW  
for which I or we promise to pay the price set  
opposite when it arrives at destination. I or  
we agree not to countermand this order.  
No contract Recognized Unless Written on  
This Order and Approved by the Dalmont  
Nursery, Plainview, Texas.

# Dalmont Nursery

Peach Trees, Std.	to ft		
Peach Trees, Spec.	to ft		
Nectarine Trees	to ft		
Plum Trees, Spec.	to ft		
Pear Trees, Spec.	to ft		
Apple Trees, Spec.	to ft		
Apple Trees, Std.	to ft		
Apricot Trees	to ft		
Prune Trees	to ft		
Cherry Trees	to ft		
Quince Trees	to ft		
Mulberry Trees	to ft		
Persimmon Trees	to ft		
Grape Vine			
Grapes, Special			
Blackberry Plants			
Dewberry Plants			
Currants			
Gooseberries			
Strawberry Plants			
Raspberry Plants			
Rhubarb			
Asparagus			
Rose Bushes			
Flowering Shrubs			
Climbing Vines			
Shade Trees	to ft		
Evergreens	to ft		
Nut Trees	to ft		
Privit, \$6 per 100			
Forest Trees	to ft		
Bulbs			
Total Amount of Order	\$		
Credit By	\$		
Balance Due	\$		

We Reserve the Right to Substitute with as Good or Better Varieties

And it is understood and agreed by me, that in case I refuse to receive or pay for said order as herein stated, this said order becomes a note for the full amount herein named, payable at Plainview, Texas, to the order of said Dalmont Nursery. I further agree that should I fail to be at destination to receive said order when it arrives, and if said order does not arrive on date named herein, I will accept and pay for said order if delivered in good condition at destination before the expiration of planting season. It is understood and agreed that if this order is not paid for at the time of delivery, it remains the property of Dalmont Nursery until it is paid for in full, and if not paid for, Dalmont Nursery has the right to take possession of same without legal procedure. It is also understood and agreed that said Dalmont Nursery is to replace at half each price, all stock dying within one year from date of delivery; it is also understood that if any of the said stock is not true to name it is to be replaced free or the amount paid for same is to be returned, but no further damages so said Dalmont Nursery.

APPLES	PLUMS	GOOSEBERRY	ROSES
All apples 40c, except the Golden Winesap, \$1.00 each.	All Plums 65c, except the Wonder and Never Fail, \$1.00 each.	Gooseberries 15c each, \$1.20 per dozen.	Roses, 2 year olds 50c. Roses, 1 year olds, 40c.
Bell Flower	Monitor	Downing	American Beauty
Ark. Black	Ark. Lombard	Houghton	Climbing Amer. B.
Early Harvest	Blue Damson	DEWBERRY	White Amer. B.
Banana	Golden Beauty	Dewberries \$6 per 100	Eloye de France
Mo. Pippin	Wild Dr.	Austin	Luxemburg
Red June	Lombard	Thornless	Columbia
Horse	Never Fail	STRAWBERRY	Helen Gould
Winesap	Omaha	Everbearing \$1.50 per hundred.	Killarney
Winesap (Styman)	Poole's Pride	Spring, \$1.00 per 100.	Kaiseina
Yellow Cluster	Wonder	Klondike	La France (pink)
York Imp.	Golden-Rod	Lady Thompson	La France (red)
Golden Winesap	Opata	Aroma	La France (white)
Red Radiance	Sapy	Texas	Meteor (climbing)
Red Delicious	Green Gauge	RASPBERRY	Bush Meteor
CORAB APPLES	Erby Sept	Raspberries 10c each.	Red Radiance
Florence	Inkpa	Kansas	Pink Radiance
PEARS	PRUNES	St. Regis	Pearl of Garden
All Pears 65c, except the Hawkins. \$1 each.	German 65c.	MULBERRY	Paul Neyron
Bartlett	Italian	English Black	Queen of Spain
Flem Beauty	NECTARINES	Hicks	Red Baby Rambler
Hawkins	All Nectarines 65c except El Paso, \$1 each.	Rus. Mulberry	Crimson Rambler
APRICOTS, 65c	El Paso	Downing	Sunburst
Cluster	West. English	NUT TREES	F. Scott Key
Moor Park	SHADES	Nut Trees 50c per ft.	Tipplitz
Plainview Apricot.	Shade Trees:	Almond ft.	CLIMBING VINES
S'd'ng Aprieot 50c	4 to 5 ft. 75c	Pecan ft.	Climbing Vines 25c ea.
QUINCE, 75c	5 to 6 ft. \$1.00	Walnut, Black ft.	Clematis
CHERRIES	6 to 8 ft. \$1.50	EVERGREENS	Honeysuckle
All Cherries 65c except Sweet Dalmont.	2 in. diameter \$2.00	Evergreens \$1 per ft.	(Evergreen)
Compass	3 in. diameter \$3.00	Arbor Vitae (C.) ft.	Honeysuckle
Early Richmond	Ash	Arbor Vitae (B.) ft.	(Red)
Montmorency	Box Elder	Spruce	Ivy
Dalmont Sweet \$1	Black Locust	Pyramidal ft.	Kndzu
Wragg	Bunga Catalpa	Arbor Vitae (C.C.)	Silk Vine
PEACHES	Catalpa	Eng. Lavender ft.	Trumpet Vine
All Peaches 40c except Sure Shot, \$1 each.	Cottonwood	Red Cedar	Virginia Creeper
Early Sun	Elm	Privit (Cal) ft.	Wisteria
Champion	Honey Locust	BULBS	CURRENTS
Early Daum	Maple (soft)	Bulbs 25c each	Currants 10c each
Zero	Pouplar (car)	Cannas	Fay's Prolific
Empress	Popular (Lom)	Carnations	Victoria
Dalmont Special	Popular (Col)	Chrysanthemum	White Grape
Dalmont's F.	Popular (S. L.)	Dahlias	FOREST TREES
Elberta	Red Bud	Tritoma	(Seedlings)
Family F.	Sycamore	Goldenglow	Forest Seedlings 2c to 10c each.
Heath Cling	Tamarac	Mex. Tube Rose	Pois d' Arc ft.
J. H. Hale	R. Mulberry	Paeonies	Black Locust ft.
Indian Cling	W. Willow	Hollyhock	Box Elder ft.
Gem	Flowering Willow	Poppy	Catalpa ft.
Mamie Ross	Hardy Oleander	Iris	Elm ft.
Mixon Cling	GRAPES	FLOWERING SHRUBS	Honey Locust—Thornless ft.
Mayflower	All grapes 20c, except the Everbearing \$1.00 each, 2 year old 35c each.	Flowering Shrubs 25c each.	Maple (soft) ft.
Triumph	Arbor	Althea (Pink)	Rus. Mulberry ft.
Early Wheeler	Agawam	Althea (White)	GRASSES
Sure Shot	Concord	Althea (Purple)	Ornamental Grasses, 35c per bulb.
Family Tree	Catawba	Althea (Red)	Donox
Red Flowering	Moore's Early	Lilac (White)	Pampa
White Flowering	Moore's Diamond	Lilac (Purple)	Zebra
	Niagra	Fl'g Willow	SPECIALS
	Worden	Hibiscus	\$1.00 each—or \$9.00 per dozen.
	Carm	Snowball	Never Fail Plum
	Everbearing	Syringa	Wonder Plum
	BLACKBERRY	Spirea	Sure Shot Peach
	Blackberries \$6 per 100	Butterfly Bush	Dalmont Hardy
	Blowers	Crepe Myrtle	Cherry
	Dallas	Hardy Salva	
	Early Harvest		